

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 22, 2002

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### **ARMY CORPS TELLS HINCHEY WAVERLY WILL GET FUNDING**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to provide \$77,000 for a study of Dry Brook Creek and Waverly Reservoir in the Village of Waverly. Last month Hinchey wrote to ACOE, expressing his displeasure with the Army Corps' recent statement that it may not be able to fund the study in fiscal year 2002.

"I am glad the Army Corps of Engineers realized that it needs to make good on its commitment," said Hinchey. "We've put a lot of time and effort into this project and I'm very pleased that we'll now be able to make some real progress."

"This study is instrumental in allowing us to proceed with safeguarding and improving Waverly's water supply," said Mayor Terry Farish. "We definitely appreciate Congressman Hinchey's help with this project. He has worked hand in hand with us on this project and we are deeply grateful."

Waverly has two water impoundment dams on Dry Brook Creek; the upper dam is used for sedimentation while the lower is used for drinking water. In the wake of Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the Corps breached the upper dam to relieve water pressure buildup. That breach has resulted in flooding and drinking water problems for Waverly when it rains. The proposed study, which the Army Corps has estimated will cost \$155,000, will be used by Waverly to minimize flooding and reduce turbidity to allow for more consistent use of its water treatment plant.

In November 2000, Hinchey wrote to the Army Corps requesting federal funding for the study. The Corps responded that the program required non-federal matching funds to be secured in order for the federal funds to be obligated. The Corps further indicated that it did not anticipate any additional problems if these non-federal funds were assured. Hinchey subsequently worked with Waverly to secure non-federal funds. On November 20, 2001 Waverly and the Army Corps signed a cost-sharing contract for the necessary study.

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In December, however, the Army Corps informed Hinchey that budget constraints might leave the Corps without the resources to fund the Waverly study in this fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2002. Hinchey then wrote to the Army Corps stating his strong objections and urging that funding be provided without further delay. Today a representative of the Army Corps telephoned Hinchey's office and stated that the federal funds will be forthcoming.